Thibo House, The Little Red Brick House

The appearance of this Dutch Colonial Revival house is remarkable in its entirely brick exterior. The front (south) elevation includes a door at the center, with brick steps leading up to the door. The door is original, with filled panels and sidelights. The door sits within an arching doorway, though the arch is low (flattened). To both the left and right of the door, two 6/6 replacement windows have brick sills. Each window sits within low, brick archways. The east elevation has a door to the right of center, and it is also below an arch. Brick steps lead up to a small stoop at the door, and a metal railing and balustrade lead up to the porch. The second story appears to have two 6/6 windows, with arches above them (though this is obscured by trees). The side, gambrel roof has slight returns at its eaves. The west elevation has two, arched 6/6 windows at the second story. The first story is quite obscured, but it appears to have two 6/6 windows with arches.

This house is still owned by one of the original occupants. It was built by James Thibo, a mason from Avon, Ohio, for his family in 1970. Another house, built by 1897, stood on this site through 1969. That year retired Oberlin teacher Margaret Utterbael sold this property to James and Janice Thibo. "Our plans were to remodel the house, replace the single car garage with a two car, and clear the property of lots of evergreen shrubs and wild rose bushes," Janice said. "When Jim started removing plaster, etc, he decided it would be less costly to build a new house." Jan created the plans for the new house, Jim took a year off from work in order to devote every day to the project, and so they got started in 1970. Every neighborhood kids would come by - one said, "He's building a barn, but continued...

This house is located on a residential street that receives little traffic.
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**42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)**

he's going to live in it.' Pictures that the Thibos took during the intermediate stages of construction indeed reveal a barn-looking structure. Lumber from an 'old one room school house on Hamilton' street was reused in its construction, and bricks from the 'old Prospect school' form the garage. In 1971 the Thibos moved into what everyone called 'The Little Red Brick House.' Jim worked as a millwright at Ford Motor Co. Cleveland Casting. The Thibos had two children, Gary and Carol. Gary graduated from Avon High in 1971 and enrolled in Lorain County Community College. He also assisted his father on another construction venture - a house at 251 S. Park - and moved in there upon its completion. For several years, while Carol taught pre-school at Episcopal Church and started a craft business, she and her daughter Shelly resided with here with the Thibos. Jim died on July 8, 1986.

**43. History and Significance (Con't)**


**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)**

**45. Sources (Con't)**